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# **Requesting Public Comments on the NOAA Fisheries' Draft Equity and Environmental Justice Strategy**

# Executive Orders for Equity and Environmental Justice

**Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government - [EO 13985](#) (2021)**

**Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad - [EO 14008](#) (2021), with a focus on environmental justice**

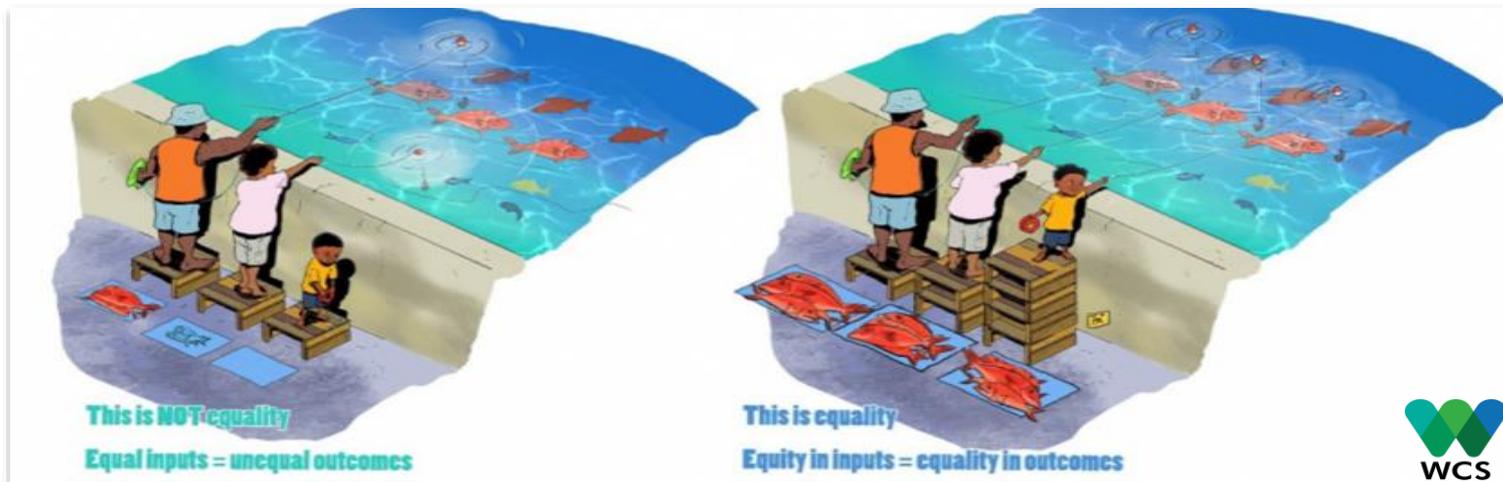
**Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations - [EO 12898](#) (1994)**



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# Key Terms: Equity

*Equity* means the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment.



Definition from Executive Order 13985.



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# Key Terms: Environmental Justice

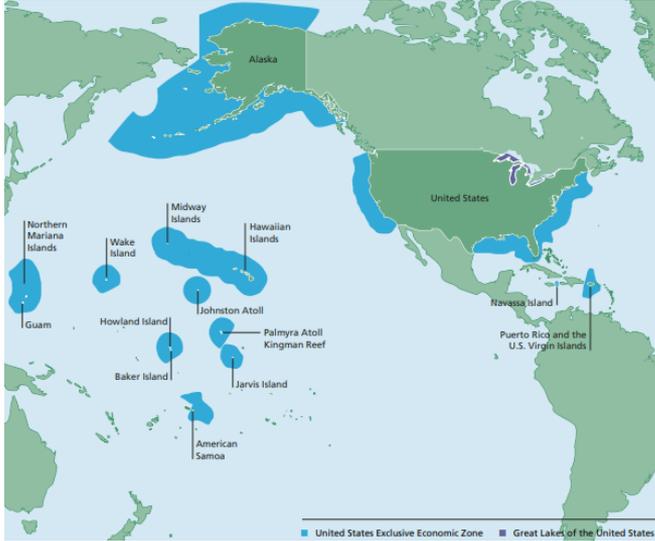
*Environmental Justice* is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, gender, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies including but not limited to:

- Equitable protection from environmental and health hazards
- Equitable access to decision-making processes
- Equitable opportunity for disadvantaged communities that have been historically marginalized

Definition from the Environmental Protection Agency.



# Key Terms: Underserved Communities



*Underserved communities* have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life.

These include geographic communities as well as populations sharing a particular characteristic such as: women and girls; Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons\*, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and other persons of color; persons facing discrimination or barriers related to gender identity; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

Definition based on Executive Order 13985



# Barriers to Equity and Environmental Justice

- Unawareness of underserved communities
- Structural barriers
- Barriers to accessing services
- System complexity
- Gaps in expertise
- Gaps in representation



# NOAA Fisheries' Draft EEJ Strategy

- Framework to incorporate EEJ into our daily activities
- Requires step-down implementation plans at the Regional level
- Seeks to remove barriers to EEJ
- Seeks to promote equity in all we do



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# The NOAA Fisheries' Draft EEJ Strategy asks:

- Who are our underserved communities?
- How can we better communicate with and serve them?
- Does everyone has equal access to benefits?
- How can we improve equity in our research and monitoring programs?
- Do some communities carry the weight of regulatory burdens more than others?
- How can our governance of management resources be more inclusive?



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# Strategy Development

NMFS EEJ Working Group Forms

April

EEJ Strategy internal review

February

Regional implementation plans

Spring

2021

2022

2023

November

Preliminary community input

WE ARE HERE



Summer

Public feedback

November

Finalize EEJ Strategy



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# We need your input

- We need your help to reduce barriers to underserved communities and to incorporate EEJ into NOAA Fisheries' daily activities
- Please provide your comments on NOAA Fisheries' draft EEJ Strategy via:
  - Online: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/noaa-fisheries-invites-public-comment-new-draft-equity-and-environmental-justice>
  - Phone:
    - May 24: 4:00-6:00 Eastern
    - June 21: 3:00-5:00 Pacific
    - June 30: 1:00-3:00 Hawaii
    - July 19: 4:00-6:00 Eastern
  - In person: meeting dates and venues will be announced soon!
- Thank you!



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